

PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 702-011934

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application :
Ad EMMERZAAL : **CONTAINER TAB**
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :
Filed Concurrently Herewith :
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
November 8, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert section headings.

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following section heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On page 1, after the first complete paragraph, please insert the following section heading:

2. Description of the Prior Art

On page 2, before the first complete paragraph, please insert the following section heading:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 3, after the third complete paragraph which begins with "These and other", insert the following section heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 4, before the first complete paragraph, please insert the following section heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-11 and rewrite them as new claims 12-22 as follows:

12. A tab for a container having a wall with a tear part for opening the container, said tab comprising:

 a rigid lever part, which is connectable to the tear part and which defines a plane;
 and

 an operating part for operating the lever part, which operating part is movably connected to the lever part, such that the operating part can be moved out of the plane of the rigid lever part.

13. The tab according to claim 12, wherein the operating part is hingedly arranged to the lever part.

14. The tab according to claim 13, wherein the lever part comprises a substantially sleeve-like edge, in which a cylindrical edge of the operating part is hingedly arranged.

15. The tab according to claim 13, wherein the lever part comprises at least one opening, in which the operating part is arranged.

16. The tab according to claim 13, wherein the operating part has a tab shape.

17. The tab according to claim 13, wherein the operating part comprises a loop.

18. The tab according to claim 12, wherein the operating part is flexible.

19. The tab according to claim 18, wherein the lever part comprises at least two sleeves, in which the ends of a strand are fixedly arranged.

20. The tab according to claim 19, wherein the strand comprises a plastic.

21. The tab according to claim 19, wherein the strand comprises a steel cable.

22. A container, comprising:

a bottom wall;

a peripheral wall extending from the bottom wall;

an upper closing wall, which comprises a tear part for opening the container; and

a tab which is connected to the tear part, wherein the tab is comprised of a rigid lever part, which is connectable to the tear part and which defines a plane; and
an operating part for operating the lever part, which operating part is movably connected to the lever part, such that the operating part can be moved out of the plane of the rigid lever part.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

On page 10, please cancel the previous verison of the ABSTRACT and insert the amended version as follows. (Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.21, a marked-up version of the Abstract Of The Disclosure is attached.)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a tab for a container having a wall with a tear part for opening the container. The tab has a rigid lever part, which is connectable to the tear part and an operating part for operating the lever part. The operating part is movably connected to the lever part, such that the operating part can be moved out of the plane of the rigid lever part.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment conforms the specification and the pending claims to customary United States practice. Original claims 1-11 have been canceled and rewritten as claims 12-22 in order to remove multiple dependencies and conform the claims to standard United States patent practice.

Examination and allowance of claims 12-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF ABSTRACT

[ABSTRACT] ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a tab for a container [comprising] having a wall with a tear part for opening the container. [said tab comprising:] The tab has a rigid lever part, which is connectable to the tear part[;] and an operating part for operating the lever part[, which]. The operating part is movably connected to the lever part, such that the operating part can be moved out of the plane of the rigid lever part.